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CIA - Interagency Priorities Committee

SEP 8 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: CHIEF, PP/C

SUBJECT : Questions Presented by the Special Study Group

REFERENCE : Memorandum from Chief, PP/C, dated 3 September 1954, same subject

1. Question: What are the functions of this Committee and how well is it working?

Answer: The functions of the Interagency Priorities Committee are to determine the highest priority targets and requirements of the U.S. Government, to iron out conflicts in priority, and to resolve problems resulting from competition for CIA's clandestine intelligence collection resources. In addition to these functions assigned to the IPC by its Charter, the Committee, by common consent of the members, has become a principal means of providing liaison between CS/CIA and the membership of the IPC for the purpose of discussing matters of mutual interest in the clandestine collection field other than targets and requirements. The Committee is believed to have worked especially well when it has served both as a forum for the airing of complaints against CS/CIA, and as a means of resolving various day to day problems which have arisen between CS/CIA and the agencies represented on the Committee. In the latter case, these problems usually are dealt with on a bi-lateral basis between the IPC member from the agency concerned and the IPC Secretariat. It is felt that there is room for improvement, both in the type and quality of the targets submitted for CIA collection action, and for improvement in the quality of the requirements supplied when CS/CIA indicates that it has a capability for coverage of particular targets.

2. Question: What percentage of these priorities does CIA have the capabilities to satisfy?

Answer: CIA has today the capabilities to satisfy approximately five (5) per cent of the IPC's requirements, taking into account the length of the target list, the type of coverage desired, and operating conditions within the denied areas.

3. Question:

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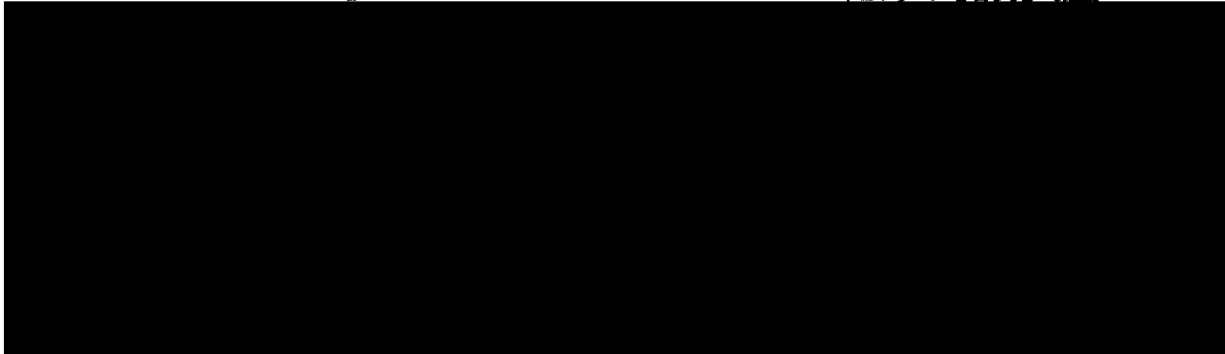
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25X1X4 3. Question: Does CIA undertake tasks in the intelligence field which are not presented to the IPC?


Answer: Yes, CIA does undertake tasks in the intelligence field which are not presented to the IPC. For example, targets and



4. Question: Do we have the capability to satisfy the highest priority requests of the IPC?

Answer: No, if the word "capability" is taken to mean an agent in place capable of continuous reporting on the target. As you know the highest priority IPC targets, being in the USSR, are the most difficult to cover not only by reason of the general effectiveness of the Soviet security system and the consequent problems involved in getting an agent to a target, but also by reason of the great difficulty in establishing and maintaining communication, especially wireless communication, should the agent reach the target. As the result of the concentration of our efforts on these highest priority targets, particularly those submitted to us by the Armed Services because of their importance as probable sources of early warning information, we have succeeded in recruiting agents whom we believe would be capable of covering certain targets, but we have still not solved the problem of getting the agent to the target and effectively maintaining him there.

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Chief
Foreign Intelligence

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